

TO: All Residential Ratepayers Advisory Board Members

FROM: Larry Kelly and F. Anne Ross

DATE: January 31, 2005

RE: Agenda-Next scheduled Residential Ratepayers Advisory Board Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Board is Monday, February 7, 2005 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM at the OCA offices in the Walker Building.

1. Review and approve the minutes of the December 6, 2004 meeting.
2. Legislation: The OCA is following numerous pieces of legislation for which we would like your input as well as your suggestions regarding any other bills you believe we should include;
  - HB 91 (relating to the pole tax). We haven't taken a position on this, simply provided some information to the Committee.
  - HB 174 (extension of the System Benefit Charge and handling of surplus). Passed House with Amendment on 1/26/05. OCA supported.
  - HB 175 (relative to divestiture of PSNH generation). Amendment will allow NH utilities to add generation. OCA opposed "add" language.
  - HB 193 (relative to efficient renewable energy programs), only following.
  - HB 194 (establishing a study committee to examine regulatory practices pertaining to the telecommunications industry).
  - HB 215 (relating to water management), only following.
  - HB 228 (related to cell phone directories).
  - HB 237 (relative to telephone rate disclosure).
  - HB 330 (establishing a commission to study the feasibility of a statewide non emergency public service 311 line), only following.
  - HB 422 (relative for exemptions from the consumer protection act).
  - SB 11 (extending the local property tax exemption for wooden poles and conduits).
  - SB 51 (regulation of electric cooperative poles), only following.
  - SB 149 (exemptions from the telecommunications service tax), only following.
  - There are a few other LSRs we plan to follow but are awaiting an assignment of a Bill #.
    - LSR #301 (unbundling of communications services for purposes of the application of the communications service tax)
    - LSR #840 (granted regional water districts the power of eminent domain)
    - LSR #958 (establishing the Money Transmitters Act).
3. Update on PSNH transition service rate increase, rate of return, and different rates for large versus smaller customers. On 1/28/05 the Commission approved PSNH's request, denied the different TS rates for large versus small customers, and set another proceeding for the return on equity.
4. Update on regional issues:

- a. ISO claimed that the LICAP proposal it is supporting will “only” increase bills for New England over the period 2006-2010 by \$2.3 billion. Our coalition says it will add \$8.3 billion to customer bills. The question of whether ISO’s proposal will increase reliability is still an open issue.
  - b. The process at ISO for determining how the costs for the future transmission upgrades for Metropolitan Boston and Southwestern Connecticut will be recovered is starting. Anne and Ken attended a meeting in Massachusetts on the Metro Boston upgrade on January 31. Our consultant is attending a similar meeting on SW Conn. On February 7<sup>th</sup>. We will be working as closely as possible with the NHPUC on these issues.
5. Winter disconnection moratorium; not knowing how effective the PUC’s new disconnect rules would be, on December 29 the OCA filed a request for a disconnection moratorium. On January 12<sup>th</sup> a meeting was held at which the utilities provided information on shutoffs and disconnect messages for this winter versus last. Their preliminary information showed far fewer disconnects this year under the new rules versus last year. Based on that preliminary information the OCA agreed to hold our request in abeyance until we get comparable information for January. If the January information continues to show very little shutoff activity, the OCA is considering withdrawing our request for this winter.
6. Per the request of Ross Doer we have asked Bruce Chaney to address the Board on 911 issues at our March meeting.
7. We are now drafting out some ideas for our Spring Newsletter and would appreciate any ideas or suggestions from the Board.
8. Any other issues whether part of the Addendum or not which the Board wishes to raise.